

CLAIMS:

1. In a transmission system, a method of downloading software programs into a storage unit, the software programs including a boot code and an application code, the boot code allowing downloading of the application code, the storage unit comprising at least a current boot code, the method comprising the following steps:
 - 5 - upon a download request, downloading a new boot code in a location, which does not overwrite the current boot code,
 - indicating that the new boot code replaces the current boot code,
 - downloading a new application code associated to the new boot code in a location, which does not overwrite the new boot code,
 - 10 - indicating that the new application code is valid.
2. In a transmission system, a method of downloading software programs into a storage unit, the software programs including a boot code and an application code, the boot code allowing downloading of the application code, the storage unit comprising at least a current software program stored including a current boot code stored in the storage unit at a first position, the
15 method comprising the steps of:
 - defining a boot sector for jumping to a position of the storage unit where a boot code is stored in order to validate the use of said boot code, the boot sector initially pointing at the first position, where the current boot code is stored,
 - upon a download request, downloading a new software program in a second position
20 including a new boot code and a new application code,
 - jumping to the second position where the new boot code is stored.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of jumping to the second position where the new boot code is stored is followed by :
 - replacing the current boot code with the new boot code at the first position,
 - 25 - jumping to the first position.
4. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the boot sector is located in a protected storage area of the storage unit.
5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the boot sector is located in a protected storage

area separate from the storage unit.

6. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the current boot code is stored in a protected area of the storage unit, which area can be unprotected to be overwritten under specific software conditions.

5 7. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the new software program is stored in an area of the storage unit, which area can be protected and unprotected to be overwritten under specific software conditions.

8. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the new software program includes an intermediate application code, which is a link between the current application code and the
10 new application code enabling a user to parametrize the new software program.

9. A receiver for receiving software programs transmitted by a transmission system, the receiver comprising means for carrying out the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

10. A receiver as claimed in claim 9, wherein said means for carrying out the method as
15 claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 include a file system.

11. A receiver as claimed in claim 9, wherein the storage unit is a persistent memory allowing protecting / unprotecting memory area upon software instructions.

12. A transmission system comprising a transmitter for transmitting software programs and at least a receiver for receiving said software programs, the receiver comprising means for
20 carrying out the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

13. A computer program product for a receiver computing a set of instructions, which when loaded into the receiver, causes the receiver to carry out the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

14. A signal for carrying a computer program, the computer program being arranged to carry
25 out the method as claimed in claim 1.